

Welcome to Fourth Edition of the Boxing Biographies Newsletter

Saturday, 4 August 2007

Each new edition we will feature one of the fighters from our new and fast growing web site which, unlike any other site, provides fistic fans with the actual fight reports as published in the press from 1850 to present day. Whenever possible they will be reproduced along with the photographs used in the original article so readers get a real taste of some of the rich history of the Noble Science across the years. In addition we also provide wide range of articles written especially for the site by our small team of in house staff. Please visit our site you will not be disappointed and we look forward to your comments and suggestions on how we may make improvements to the site.

Many thanks Rob Snell, Manos & Grim.X

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19 June 1910

That Solar Plexus Blow

Robert Fitzsimmons v James J Corbett
17 March 1897



Articles for a fight for the championship of the world between the title holder James J. Corbett. and the middleweight champion, Robert Fitzsimmons, were signed a few days before Christmas, 1896. The promoter of this battle, which was fought in Carson City, Nev., was



Dan Stuart, of Texas, who had demonstrated his ability in affairs of this sort. Stuart was known the country over as a square man, who always was anxious to make good his word, and with him at the head of affairs the followers of pugilism rested in full confidence that the contest would be in every way above suspicion.

One of Stuart's close friends was a man who for more than thirty years has been interested in all classes of amateur and professional sport and who today is known the country over as one without a blemish upon his reputation. To this man Stuart went one day early in January, 1897 and asked him if he would

undertake to place \$50,000 in wagers on the Corbett-Fitzsimmons battle, the money to be furnished by Stuart.

"That is too much money to bet on this fight, Dan," said his friend. "When two such men as Corbett, and Fitzsimmons get into the ring- either one is likely to be returned the winner. Fifty thousand dollars is a lot of money to risk on a contest of this kind."

"I will not risk the money," said Stuart, "unless I am able to make certain arrangements that I now have in contemplation."

"Fifty thousand dollars could not be bet," replied his friend, "without attracting much attention. I don't know what you mean, Dan, but, of course, the inference is bad. I never have had a shade the best of it, and I don't want the best of it. If I bet \$50,000 on this fight my friends would know it, and I would be suspected of employing methods that I do not like. Then if your connection with the wagers were established—and I don't see how it would be possible to keep it secret—it would look very bad for all of us. I wish you would get somebody else to place your money,"

Stuart replied that he knew of no other man who could place \$50,000 without attracting a lot of attention that -would be harmful to the fight and distasteful to himself.

"Why don't you try Pittsburg Phil (George E. Smith)," responded his friend. "I had thought of him," said Stuart, "but I am not acquainted with him. Of course, he is just the man to place this money if he could be persuaded to do so." "I will be very glad to see that you meet him," responded Stuart's friend. "If you will name the time and place I will bring you together." This was agreed upon, and Dan Stuart and Pittsburg Phil were brought together. What arrangement was made between them cannot now be told. Both men are dead, and what they knew of the Corbett-Fitzsimmons battle died with them.

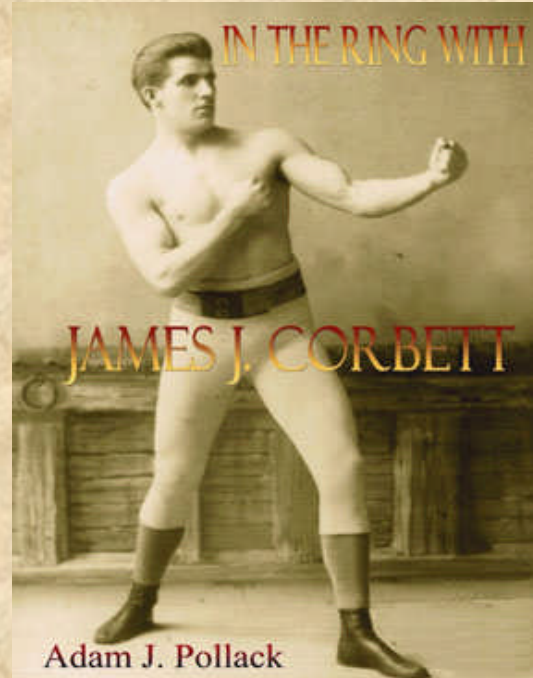
Pittsburg Phil was in San Francisco a few days before Corbett and Fitzsimmons came together. That city was in a tumult of excitement, and betting on the result of the fight was free. In the poolrooms, which then flourished in an open manner, Pittsburg Phil took the Fitzsimmons end of the wagers at 1 to 2. So much did he bet that the odds gradually shortened, until two days before the fight 7 to 5 was the longest price that Corbett's adherents would offer. Phil then went to Carson City, where he repeated the methods he had employed in San Francisco. In a poolroom owned and managed by Corbett's brother, Phil wagered a large fortune on the chances of Fitzsimmons, and again he forced the prices to shorten materially.

In the Ring With James J. Corbett.

is available at lulu.com. See <http://stores.lulu.com/apollack> Those who enjoyed the first book in the series, John L. Sullivan: The Career of the First Gloved Heavyweight Champion, will enjoy this one. It is \$45 hardback, \$30 paperback.

The preface and intro are available for review at <http://www.lulu.com/browse/preview.php?fcid=949480>

This is the second book in Adam J. Pollack's series on the heavyweight champions of the gloved era. It is the most thoroughly researched boxing-detailed biography on James J. Corbett's career ever written. It reveals new dates, bouts, and facts, shedding fresh light on his experience, skills, and ability. It meticulously describes his bouts and provides multiple viewpoints by local next day newspapers, giving it unparalleled authenticity and accuracy. The exhaustive research provides an encyclopedic wealth of knowledge about Corbett's boxing career. His bouts are placed into social, legal, racial, and historic contexts, including anti-prize fighting laws and the color line. A complete record of Corbett's career is included. 435 pages, 51 photos, 820 footnotes, bibliography, index.



Adam J. Pollack is a staff writer for Cyberboxingzone.com, vice chair of USA Boxing's Judicial Committee and a member of its Women's Task Force. He is also a boxing coach and attorney living in Iowa City, Iowa.

What you will get in this book:

More detail and accuracy regarding the fights than ever before. Round by round accounts. Pre and post fight analysis. All based on multiple local next day newspaper reports. Dates and local reports of fights which were previously unknown, or for which no one was able to provide a description because the dates were unknown, including William Welch, Joe Choynski, Mike Cleary, Dave Eiseman, etc.

Discussion of Corbett's semi-fixed fights with Frank Smith, Duncan McDonald, and Dave Campbell, using accounts written at the time. Massive coverage and discussion of the Burke and Choynski bouts, the Peter Jackson fight and subsequent attempts to negotiate a rematch, the Sullivan, McCaffrey, Kilrain, Mitchell, and Sharkey bouts, Corbett's many exhibitions, and the filmed Courtney bout.

Analysis of race issues and context for how legal issues affected and impeded the fights.

In the Ring With James J. Corbett is of the same quality and style as John L. Sullivan: The Career of the First Gloved Heavyweight Champion. Massive detail on Corbett's bouts and exhibitions - round by round

reports, pre and post fight analysis, details about his opponents where applicable, discussion of legal and social issues that affected the sport. You will get to know Corbett as a fighter. It contains information that you will not find anywhere else. I found the previously unknown dates of many bouts, and as a result, I was able to provide the next day newspaper reports. This book will cause historians to change their reports of Corbett's record. If you really want to be knowledgeable, armed with the facts of his career at your disposal, then this is a must have. You won't be disappointed.

REVIEWS - Kevin Smith, author of Black Genesis and The Sundowners:

I had the pleasure of reading an advanced copy of Adam's new book and I can assure you that it is quite worth the price of admission. Like Adam's work on Sullivan, *In the Ring With James J. Corbett* is a highly detailed, well written, and well researched work. I am a big fan of primary sources and this book supplies them in detail, using them to craft a thoroughly accurate and objective look at Corbett's fighting career, his machinations and his business acumen. Adam remains objective in his prose, giving several sides to each fight, each story. In my opinion, Adam's series on the heavyweight champions is the most exhaustively comprehensive group of works available on the fighting lives of these very public and very important social figures. If you want to know about Jim Corbett's career as a fighter, you need not look any further than *In the Ring With James J. Corbett*. I might also add that at 435 pages, the price tag of \$30 is a bargain.

Michael Hunnicutt, writer for International Boxing Research Organization (IBRO):

Boxing historian Adam Pollack has produced the definitive work on the boxing life of James J. Corbett. No other book in existence can compare to the fine and rich details of Corbett's bouts, his training, and fight to the finish Queensberry bouts common for major bouts during Jim's time. Mr. Pollack has continued to set the standard that, at least this writer wishes, could be done for all important boxers, as he previously has for John L. Sullivan. He is a wonder.

Jason Simons, Boxing Scene:

I finished *In The Ring With James J. Corbett* and, once again, I am VERY impressed. This is a scholarly work worthy of any boxing library. Adam Pollack has done an amazing job with the research and does a good job showing the backgrounds behind the fights and doing as good a job as possible recreating the fights themselves, since, except for a staged bout that not much footage exists from, the fights were not filmed. He has to use eyewitness accounts and newspaper excerpts to recreate the fights and does a very good job with this. I found the descriptions of Corbett's involvement with Joe Choynski particularly fascinating. Once again, like in the Sullivan book, Corbett's personal life is barely and almost never touched upon, but that's fine here. The title indicates that the book deals with the ring life of Corbett and it most certainly achieves that. I definitely look forward to the Fitzsimmons and Jeffries volumes that are mentioned as coming out in the future.

Oakland Tribune 28 Dec 1912

Moran No Longer On List Of White Hopes

Gunboat Smith Wallops Pittsburg Boy In One Sided Battle; No Knockout

Scratch Frank Moran's entry in the white hope stakes and substitute Jim Buckley's able seaman, "**Gunboat**" Smith.

Over at Dreamland rink across the bay last night the Gunboat gave Moran one of the most artistic trimmings landed a boxer in this section in many a long day. The scrap went the full twenty rounds but there was never a round that could be called Moran's. Right from the tap of the gong Smith started to give the red topped Pittsburg lad a boxing lesson, and he kept up the good work until Moran was wobbling about the ring when the final bell rang.

Smith landed his opponent every variety of wallop known to the "profesh" while Moran did not connect solidly more than three times during the twenty rounds. It was a good scrap but would have been a whole lot more interesting had Moran stood up and boxed Instead of covering and clinching at every opportunity.

The Pittsburg lad had fifteen pounds weight advantage over the Gunner and he started with a lot of confidence. For one and a half rounds he stood up and boxed fairly well, but when Smith floored him with a wicked right cross towards the end of the second period Moran changed his tactics and Indulged In a lot of the Frank Gotch stuff. From this point until the finish Smith chased the red head all over the ring.

He hooked, jabbed and uppercut his man with unerring skill, while Moran's wild swings came neared connecting with the chandelier than any part of the Smith after the knock-down in the early part of the scrap and he entertained so much respect for the Smith right hand thereafter that the Gunboat actually fainted him out of the ring in the fourteenth round. The Gunner, who was the aggressor at all times, forced Moran across the ring and as his man reached the ropes Smith fainted with his left. Frank thought he saw another right cross coming his way and he went clear through the ropes before Smith had a chance to deliver.



This was Moran's second excursion from the ring. In the fourth round Smith drove Moran to the ropes and as he landed a stiff left to the body both men fell from the ring among the members of the press in the first row.

The Gunboats showing last night was a revelation. When he left here to tackle the eastern "hopes" all the Gunner had was a stiff right hand punch and a great dislike for punishment. Last night the ex-seaman showed as pretty a left hand as there is in the business. In fact, the Gunner used his left hand almost exclusively and he also demonstrated that he has a stout heart and can assimilate punishment. Coming out of a clinch in the sixth round Moran landed a wild swing on Smith's left ear which sent the Gunner staggering.

The gallery boy's immediately took up the cry "there he goes, watch him dog it," but they were fooled this time. Smith dropped into a clinch and when his head cleared he proceeded to inflict summary damage on the Moran's head. This was the only damaging punch delivered by Moran during the scrap but it served to show that Manager Jim Buckley has worked wonders with Smith and that the Gunner is now as game as the proverbial pebble.

The Gunboat started execution in the first round with his left hand and he soon had the claret flowing from Moran's nose, Frank had grabbed a hunch from somewhere that he could stand up and box with his opponent and he seemed willing enough to take a punch to land one. It was a foolish policy, as Smith is much faster on his feet than Moran, and is much cleverer boxer. The Gunner kept popping in left hooks with great regularity, meantime keeping his right in reserve. Moran apparently came to the conclusion that the much heralded Smith right hand punch was a myth, as he lowered his left arm in the second round to see what Smith could do.

The guard was dropped only for a moment but Smith was quick to grab the opportunity and Moran went to the floor from a right cross. Frank took the count of nine and arose groggy. This was the end of the fancy boxing on Moran's part, as he was advised from his corner to use his weight and rough it with his lighter opponent. To the surprise of the crowd the Gunner proved some bear himself at the rough stuff. In the clinches he kept shooting up wicked right and left uppercuts which found Moran's chin every time and sent his head bade with a jerk. The Gunner never displayed any uppercuts in his previous bouts here and no one over suspected him of having such an assortment of wallops concealed about his person.

In the fifth round Gunboat caught Smith on the right eye with a left jab and drew the curtains over that optic. It was in the sixth that Moran did the most damage but when Smith got his face in the way of the punch he was dazed as a result of a head-on collision which left a big gash in his forehead from which the blood flowed freely. Smith kept on piling up points till the eleventh round, when he almost put his man away after forcing Moran to break ground Smith found an

opening for his right and popped it to the red head's face. Moran staggered across the ring and as he reached the ropes Smith shoved over another right.

Only the ropes kept Moran from falling down and the bell came to his aid. Again in the fourteenth round Smith had his man groggy with left hand jabs, but Moran weathered the storm and went to his corner a very tired boxer Right here Moran came to the conclusion that he was up against too much class and for the balance of the fight he contented himself with protecting his good looks against the onslaught of the Gunner, clinching at every opportunity. With the exception of half a dozen wild swings which punched holes in the atmosphere Moran did not unbutton a blow in the last five rounds.

The final analysis of the scrap is that Smith had twenty out of twenty rounds; that the Gunner is 100 per cent better scrapper than when he left here to go East, that he is not "yellow"; that Moran has no control over his "goat" and that the Pittsburg boy will have to be eliminated from the contenders for the heavyweight championship.